

REMARKS

Claims 13-18, 24-28, 32-34 and 37-55 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 25, 32, 37, 39, 42 and 48.

Claim objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 25 and 39 due to several informalities.

In view of the claim amendments submitted with this Amendment, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw objection to the claims.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 18, 24-27, 32, 34, 37-40, 42, 44-46 and 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Nomura et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0156832; hereinafter “Nomura”). Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 18

Nomura does not disclose that the second lens group holding frame has an **affect receiving section that is pushed by the revolving affecting section** at the time of the collapse **so that the second lens group revolves into the saving position.**

In the response to the argument section on page 3, lines 1-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that:

Nomura also discloses that the second lens group holding frame (21 including 21a-21d) has an affect receiving section (21c) that is pushed by the revolving affection section (20c) at the time of the collapse so that the second lens group revolves in to the saving position (see Figs. 4-6B and paragraph [0065]). .

Applicants disagree with the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

Nomura discloses a rotatable lens frame 21 with a cylindrical swing portion 21c that is fitted to the eccentric pivot 20c of the second group support frame 20. The rotatable lens 21 is freely rotatable in a rotational direction (counter-clockwise direction as viewed in each of FIGS. 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B) that position the second lens group L2, which is held by the cylindrical lens holder portion 21a, on the optical axis Z1 by a torsion spring (FIG. 1) positioned between the eccentric pivot 20c and the cylindrical swing portion 21c. However, Nomura does not disclose that the second lens group holding frame has an **affect receiving section that is pushed by the revolving affecting section** at the time of the collapse **so that the second lens group revolves into the saving position.**

First, Nomura does not disclose that the cylindrical swing portion 21c (the alleged affect receiving section) is **pushed** by the eccentric pivot 20c (the alleged revolving affection section). That is, Nomura discloses that a torsion spring (FIG. 1) is positioned between the eccentric pivot 20c and the cylindrical swing portion 21c, but does not disclose the eccentric pivot 20c pushing the cylindrical swing portion 21c.

Second, Nomura does not disclose anything about the affect receiving section being pushed by the revolving affecting section at the time of the collapse **so that the second lens group revolves into the saving position.** That is, Nomura does not disclose the eccentric pivot 20c pushes the cylindrical swing portion 21c so that the rotatable lens frame revolves into a removed position.

On the contrary, Nomura discloses a position-control projection 21f provided on an outer peripheral surface of the cylindrical swing portion 21c. Further, Nomura discloses a CCD frame 11 that is provided with a position-control cam bar 11a which extends forward from the base 11b

of the CCD frame 11 (FIG. 9). Moreover, Nomura discloses a removed-position holding surface 11a1 provided along an inner side edge of the position-control cam bar 11a and a cam surface 11a2 which is included rearwards to the base 11b (page 5, paragraph [0066]). A rearward movement of the second lens group support frame 20 causes the position-control projection 21f of the rotatable lens frame 21 to come into contact with the cam surface 11a2 of the position-control cam bar 11a and subsequently causes the rotatable lens frame 21 to rotate about the eccentric pivot 20c by engagement of the position-control projection 21f with the cam surface 11a2 so that the second lens group L2 withdraws from the optical axis Z1 (page 6, paragraph [0070]).

In this state where the position-control projection 21f of the rotatable lens frame 21 is engaged with the removed-position holding surface 11a1, the second lens group L2 is positioned in the removed position, which is eccentric away from the optical axis Z1. Therefore, Nomura discloses the position-control projection 21f coming into contact with the cam surface 11a2 and causing the rotatable lens frame 21 to rotate about the eccentric pivot 20c into a removed position, but does not disclose a **affect receiving section of the lens second lens group being pushed by the revolving affecting section** of the cylinder at the time of the collapse **so that the second lens group revolves into the saving position.**

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claim 18 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 28, 34 and 38

Claims 28, 34 and 38 recite subject matter analogous to claim 18, and therefore are allowable at least for at least the analogous reasons claim 18 is allowable.

Claim 32

Claim 32 recites, *inter alia*, “a driving source that rotatably moves the rear elements holding frame so that the rear elements lens revolves, a driving gear fixed on a rotary shaft of the driving source, a transmission gear fixed to the driving gear and a receiving gear fixed on the rear elements holding frame and connected to the transmission gear, wherein a rotary driving force of the driving source is transmitted via the driving gear, the transmission gear and the receiving gear to the rear elements holding frame.” Nomura does not disclose these features recited in claim 32.

Claims 37, 42 and 48

Claims 37, 42 and 48 recite subject matter analogous to claim 32, and therefore are allowable at least for at least the similar reasons claim 32 is allowable.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-17, 33, 41, 43, 47 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nomura. Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 13 - 17, 24 - 27, 33, 39 - 41, 43 - 47 and 49 depend from one of the independent claims that have been shown to be allowable, and therefore are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency and additional limitations thereof.

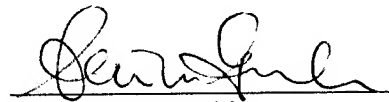
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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